



REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Borough of Barnstaple

FOR THE YEAR 1952.

The Castle,

Barnstaple,

July, 1953.

*To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and
Councillors of the Borough of Barnstaple.*

Mr. Mayor, Miss Howard and Gentlemen,

*I have the honour to present the
Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary
Administration of the Borough for the year
1952.*

Your obedient Servant,

F. J. H. MARTIN,

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

M.O.H., Barnstaple.

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List of Staff.

The Staff of the Public Health Department consists of :—

PART-TIME OFFICER :—

F. J. H. MARTIN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

WHOLE-TIME OFFICERS :—

W. RODGERS, M.S.I.A.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

R. COOPE, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector
(To March, 1952).

F. V. PYE, M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector
(From May, 1952).

Miss E. M. FENNELL

Clerk.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	2,396
Population (Registrar-General's Mid-Year Estimate)					16,130
Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	4,436
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£121,413
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£488

Vital Statistics.

		Males	Females	Total
LIVE BIRTHS.	Legitimate	134	116	250
	Illegitimate	9	7	16
BIRTH RATE per 1,000 population		...	...	16.49
		Males	Females	
STILL BIRTHS.	Legitimate	2	0	} Total 2
	Illegitimate	0	0	
STILL BIRTH RATE per 1,000 total (live and still) births				7.46
		Males	Females	Total
DEATHS		91	107	198
DEATH RATE per 1,000 population		...	...	12.22

The Table appended shows the comparative figures for Barnstaple; and England & Wales.

The Local Birth and Death Rates are shown corrected by the Area Comparability Factors.

Birth Rate per 1,000 population				Death Rate per 1,000	Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births	
		Live Births	Still Births		Deaths under 1 year	Deaths from Diarrhœa and Enteritis under 2 years
Barnstaple	...	16.32	0.12	9.65	26.3	0
England and Wales	...	15.3	0.35	11.3	27.6	1.1

Deaths of Infants under one year.

				Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	...	...	...	5	1 }	7
Illegitimate	...	...	...	0	1 }	

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks.

				Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	4	1 }	6
Illegitimate	0	1 }	

Rate per 1,000 live births	26·31
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Local Deaths over 65 years.

65—69	...	23	85—89	...	13
70—74	...	29	90—94	...	8
75—79	...	37	95 plus	...	0
80—84	...	31	Total	...	141

Poliomyelitis.

During the year 3 cases of Acute Poliomyelitis occurred in the Borough. Two were Paralytic and one Non paralytic, and there was one death. Two of the cases had been admitted to the North Devon Infirmary from outside areas.

Meteorological Report.

I am obliged to the Barnstaple Meteorological Station at the North Devon Athenæum for the following information:—

Barometer.	Highest reading 30·7 ins. Lowest reading 29·0 ins.
Temperature.	Maximum 79° on 1st & 22nd July. Minimum 21° on 22nd January and 2nd April. Mean for the year 50·40°
Rainfall.	39·01 ins. Average for preceding 10 years 34·02 ins. Number of days on which ·01 ins. or more of rain fell, 199.

Tuberculosis.

The two following tables show cases of tuberculosis notified during the year and the deaths from this disease. Sexes are separated. Pulmonary and Non-pulmonary are also differentiated.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F
1—5				
5—10				
10—15				
15—20		1		
20—25				
25—35	1	2	1	
35—45	3		2	
45—55	1	2		
55—65	1			
65 and over		1		
Totals	6	6	3	Nil

AGE PERIODS	DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year				
1—5				
5—10				1
10—15				
15—20				
20—25				
25—35				
35—45			1	
45—55	2			
55—65	1			
65 and over				
Totals	3	0	1	1

Infectious Diseases Notified (Excluding Tuberculosis)

AGE GROUPS	Scarlet Fever	Food Poisoning	Polio- myelitis		Dysentery Soné	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Measles	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Encephalitis (Acute Post- Infectious)
			Paral.	Non- Paral.							
Under 1 year						1		16	3		
1 to 2 years					4			51	2		1
2 to 3 years					2			54	1		
3 to 4 years					1	2		72	1		
4 to 5 years					1	1		87	3		
5 to 9 years	1		1		13	3		455	8		
10 to 14 years				1	1			27	3		
15 to 19 years						1		2			
20 to 34 years		2	1		3	2	1	2	1		
35 to 44 years		1			1	2					
45 to 64 years		1			2	8		3	1		
65 years & over					1	4					
Age Unknown						1		1			
TOTAL	1†	4	2*	1*	29	25§	1	770||	23	Nil	1†

† Scarlet Fever—Case removed to Isolation Hospital, Bideford.

* Poliomyelitis —All transferred to Isolation Hospital. Two of these cases were at the North Devon Infirmary from outside districts.

§ Pneumonia —One case removed to Isolation Hospital.

|| Measles —One case removed to Isolation Hospital.

† Encephalitis —Case removed to Isolation Hospital. Fatal.

Causes of Death during the Year 1952

Causes of Death		M.	F.
Tuberculosis, Respiratory ...	...	3	0
Tuberculosis, Other ...	...	1	1
Syphilitic Disease ...	...	0	0
Diphtheria ...	...	0	0
Whooping Cough ...	...	0	0
Meningococcal Infections ...	...	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	...	0	0
Measles ...	...	1	0
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases ...	...	0	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ...	...	0	5
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus ...	...	2	0
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast ...	...	0	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus ...	...	0	2
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms ...	...	7	9
Leukæmia, Aleukæmia ...	...	0	0
Diabetes ...	...	0	0
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ...	...	11	21
Coronary Disease, Angina ...	...	14	9
Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	...	0	0
Other Heart Disease ...	...	28	36
Other Circulatory Disease ...	...	4	5
Influenza ...	...	0	0
Pneumonia ...	...	4	1
Bronchitis ...	...	1	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory System ...	...	1	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ...	...	1	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhœa ...	...	1	0
Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	...	0	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate ...	...	3	0
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ...	...	0	2
Congenital Malformations ...	...	1	1
Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases ...	...	5	4
Motor Vehicle Accidents ...	...	1	0
All other Accidents ...	...	1	3
Suicide ...	...	1	2
Homicide and operations of War ...	...	0	0
All Causes ...	...	91	107

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Tuberculosis.

Hawley Sanatorium, situated in the Borough, has 28 beds.

Maternity Cases.

The Devon County Council continue to act as they did in 1947, as Agents of the Regional Hospital Board, until the Board has completed its own plans for the treatment of Maternity cases.

At the North Devon Infirmary there is a ward of 12 beds, with a fully qualified staff available for cases of doubt or difficulty.

At Bicclescombe Maternity Home, Ilfracombe, there are 20 Maternity and 4 Ante-natal beds.

There are 4 beds at Branton Nursing Home.

NOTE. During 1952, 13 Barnstaple births took place at Ilfracombe, and 3 at Branton.

A General Practitioners' Maternity Unit of 13 beds was opened at "Highfield," Victoria Road, Barnstaple, on 1st March, 1952.

Isolation of Infectious Diseases.

There is an Infectious Diseases Joint Isolation Hospital at Bideford, which serves Barnstaple as well as other Local Authorities in North Devon. Changes in 1952 have resulted in 20 beds being available in cubicles for infectious cases, and 12 in a separate block for early T.B. cases from North Devon.

Small-Pox.

The Small-Pox Hospital to which any cases of Small-Pox will be sent is Upton Pine Hospital, near Exeter.

Special ambulance transport can be obtained by contacting the Isolation Hospital, Whipton, Exeter, Telephone 67158.

Disinfection.

Proposed extension to the Cattle Market will mean the loss of the Steam Disinfection Chamber housed there. By arrangement with the Regional Hospital Committee, the steam disinfection apparatus at Bicclescombe Park Maternity Home, Ilfracombe, will be available if required.

General.

The North Devon Infirmary, situated in Barnstaple, serves the area, and provides modern Medical and Surgical treatment for the residents of the district.

A Ward at the Alexandra Hospital is now set aside as an Annexe to the Male Wards of the North Devon Infirmary, and post-operative and recovery patients are now transferred there as soon as possible.

A new Ward is now in course of preparation, and Female cases will also be transferred.

There are 123 beds for the chronic sick at the Alexandra Hospital in Barnstaple.

At Braunton Nursing Home there are 4 beds for sick persons.

Laboratory Facilities.

The main Laboratory is situated at 7 Dix's Field, Exeter, and Dr. B. Moore is the Director. It is completely installed with the necessary equipment for bacteriological examinations of all kinds. Its diagnostic and consultative services are available for all patients. Bacteriological examinations of drinking water and milk are also carried out.

There is also a Pathological Laboratory now open at the former Barnstaple and North Devon Dispensary building, with a full-time Pathologist and Technical Staff to meet the needs of the whole North Devon Area.

The Blood Bank has been transferred to this Laboratory from the North Devon Infirmary.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

V.D. Clinic. This is held at the North Devon Infirmary Annexe.

Sessions—

Females.	Mondays, 4 p.m.	Males.	Mondays, 5.15 p.m.
	Thursdays, 4.30 p.m.		Thursdays, 5.45 p.m.

Chest Clinic is held at the North Devon Infirmary Annexe.

Sessions—

Tuesdays	9 a.m.—1 p.m.	}	Clinic and X-Ray Examinations
	2 p.m.—4 p.m.		
Thursdays	9 a.m.—1 p.m.		
	2 p.m.—4.30 p.m.		
Fridays	9 a.m.—1 p.m.	}	A.P. refills
	2 p.m.—4 p.m.		

Ambulance Services.

Under Section 27 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Local Health Authority (i.e., the Devon County Council), is responsible for the provision of an Ambulance Service, and the Devon Health Committee have arranged for this to be provided through the agency of the St. John Ambulance Association. The Brigade serves the Borough and the district around, and the Head Quarters are in Commercial Road, Barnstaple.

The staff consists of 3 paid members (full time) 20 men volunteers and 14 volunteer nurses.

The Hospital Car Service, also under the Devon County Council, is available upon application to the Hospital, and the Ambulance Service is empowered to hire cars in urgent cases when the Ambulance is not necessary.

Professional Nursing in the Homes.

There are 2 District Midwives, 2 District General Nurses, and 1 Health Visitor practising in the Borough.

Home Helps Scheme.

This Scheme was started in March, 1949, and is run by the W.V.S. for the Devon County Council. It covers Barnstaple Borough and Rural Areas, wherever transport is available, and the Scheme is directed by Mrs. M. Hughes.

There are now 44 Home Helps, and 267 cases were dealt with in 1952, as compared with 36 Home Helps and 200 cases in 1951.

Any case recommended by a Doctor, Health Visitor, or District Nurse, is entitled to a Home Help. The Home Helps do any work in the house normally done by the Housewife.

Home Helps are now looking after 20 aged people, who are living by themselves and would otherwise have to go to Hospital.

During the year 1952 Home Helps rendered assistance in the homes of 22 maternity cases.

Diphtheria Immunization.

Immunization carried out during 1952 was as follows:—

Number of children who received a course of				
Primary Injections	...	...	...	216
Number of children who received a Reinforcing				
Injection	...	..	...	263

NOTE:—For the seventh consecutive year no cases of Diphtheria were notified.

Vaccination.

Number of children vaccinated against Smallpox					185
Under 1 year	1—4	5—14	15 and over		
56	65	19	45		

Sanitary Inspector's Report

Public Health Department,

The Castle,

Barnstaple,

July, 1953.

*To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Barnstaple.*

Mr. Mayor, Miss Howard and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Report on the work of your Sanitary Inspectors for the year 1952.

Mr. R. Coope left the service of the Corporation in March, and was succeeded in May by Mr. F. V. Pye.

The most important single event of the year was a small-scale outbreak of food poisoning in September, involving 9 persons, all of whom rapidly recovered. The causative food was quickly traced, and all uneaten supplies of it destroyed, and action taken to prevent further outbreaks.

Details of work done in the varied sections are given under the following headings:—

(i) HOUSING.

334 houses were visited, and 589 revisits made to check on works done or in progress.

Four houses were demolished during the year, and one basement room closed as unfit for human habitation.

Barnstaple's main Public Health problem for years to come will be the replacement of its many totally unfit houses, and the repair and reconditioning of those that are below modern standards but structurally sound.

The total number of houses built during the year was :

By Local Authority	...	46
By Private Enterprise	...	25

(ii) REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

This important service continues to expand, especially as new housing development is chiefly in the outer districts of the Borough, and the present tipping site is necessarily away from the centre.

Two collection vehicles are in daily use, and a third is used when heavier demands are made. The amount of refuse collected during the year was approximately 5,400 tons, and 11,413 miles were travelled.

During the year tipping continued on the controlled site at Raleigh. A disturbing feature was the constant trespassing by children and irresponsible persons, whereby several minor fires were started, and the sealed tip disturbed and some "valuable" refuse carried away, or other refuse thrown into the leat.

The cost of the service (Year ending 31st March, 1953) was £4,530 (Collection £3,308; Disposal £1,025; Salvage £197).

Once again, I wish to express my thanks to all engaged on this onerous duty for the efficient way in which the service is operated.

(iii) SALVAGE.

At the beginning of the year salvage prices dropped suddenly and have not recovered, neither is there any regular demand from the merchants for salvaged articles. Salvage is still continued, as it is moderately profitable and also saves valuable tipping space.

It is becoming necessary to adjust charges made for Trade Refuse collections now that waste paper is again the dross of commerce and is being put out for collection instead of being a source of profit. The income from fees for collection of Trade Refuse was £366 (Estimate £370).

The following table shows the quantities of materials salvaged, together with their value:—

	tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	£	s.	d.
Mixed Waste Paper ...	27	17	2	0	190	18	0
Cardboard ...	3	3	1	0	30	0	10
Newsprint ...	2	17	3	0	23	2	6
Books and Magazines ...		6	2	0	3	18	0
Rags ...			3	21		18	9
Cord ...		1	0	0		8	0
Egg Cartons ...			2	21		1	4
	34	7	2	14	£249	7	5

Since 1939 1,789 tons of Salvage have been collected, value £12,442.

(iv) MEAT INSPECTION.

There was again an increase in the number of animals slaughtered and inspected at the Public Abattoir, which continues to serve 6 Local Authorities and approximately 60,000 population.

This work, naturally, occupies the greater part of your Inspectors' time, and one third of all visits in the year were made on meat inspection, involving much evening work and occasional Sunday attendances.

This is, perhaps, the most positive contribution we make to Public Health, as diseased or unsound food is intercepted before it can require Curative Medicine to treat its effects.

24,455 Food Animals were slaughtered and inspected at the Public Abattoir as follows:—

Cows	Heifers	Steers & Bulls	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
1,211	1,078	821	4,137	15,086	2,122
				(4 home consump- tion)	(80 home consump- tion)

In addition the following were brought in dressed for inspection—

Beasts, 8. Calves, 4. Sheep, 303. Pigs, 46.

	Tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Meat condemned at Slaughterhouse	60	10	1	6
of which	29	8	0	27

came from "Casualty" carcasses.

Whole carcasses condemned include the following:—

Beasts, 132. Calves, 253. Sheep, 207. Pigs, 36.

9 Licences were issued to Slaughtermen.

The following table is in the form required by the Ministry, for Annual Reports :—

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	1,899	1,211	4,137	15,086	2,122
„ brought in dressed ...	6	2	4	303	46
Number inspected	1,905	1,213	4,141	15,389	2,168
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole Carcases Condemned ...	9	50	251	207	20
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	770	644	29	2,028	206
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	40·9%	57·2%	6·8%	14·5%	10·4%
Tuberculosis only					
Whole Carcases Condemned ...	23	50	2	...	16
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	107	165	2	...	121
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis	6·8%	17·7%	1%	...	6·3%

There was a further decline in the percentage of animals found to be tuberculous in any degree. In cows the percentage was 17·7% against 23·7% for the previous year, and only 1 case of Congenital Tuberculosis in a calf was found, against the previous year's 12.

All cases of Generalised Tuberculosis in bovines were again notified to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, whose Veterinary Inspectors visit the herds in question and test for other affected animals.

Examinations for *Cysticercus Bovis* (the embryo form of a tapeworm infesting man) continued, and 12 cases were found—a reduction of 37 on the previous year. The incidence of infection was 38% against 1·6% in 1951.

Much valuable assistance is given by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Veterinary Laboratory at Starcross, the Public Health Laboratory at Exeter, and the local Pathological Laboratory, in examination of specimens and confirmation of the rarer diseases.

(v) FOOD AND DRUGS.

The Devon County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority, but, apparently by traditional usage, some sampling provisions are exercised locally. The number of samples taken during the year was 22, and the results were as tabulated below:—

Article	Number taken			Results of Examination
	Formal	Inf'mal	Total	
Milk ...	1	17	18	All genuine
Water (Mains supply)		1	1	(Bacteriological Examination) Class I
Rabbit (Boneless, in Jelly) (Tinned)		2	2	Cultures remained sterile
Cherries (Red Pitted) (Tinned)		1	1	Exterior appearance of tin normal. Escape of gas on opening. Interior showed blackening of top and bottom seams. Contents appeared normal, but had a distinct metallic taste, with consequent drying of the mouth. No organisms were seen on direct film, and cultures remained sterile
Total ...	1	21	22	

ICE CREAM. At the end of the year there were 65 premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream, supplied by 7 Producers. 39 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination. Of these 35 were satisfactory (23 Grade I, and 12 Grade II). 3 were unsatisfactory (Grade III), and 1 very bad (Grade IV).

The results of samples are tabulated below:—

		Grade	Grade	Grade	Grade	Total
Producer		I	II	III	IV	
No.	1	4	5	1	—	10
	2	6	2	—	—	8
	3	6	1	2	—	9
	4	4	4	—	—	8
	5	1	—	—	—	1
	6	2	—	—	—	2
	7	—	—	—	1	1
		23	12	3	1	39

As in the previous year, most samples fell within Grade I. 1 only was in Grade IV., and the Producer of that sample does not now supply the South West.

The sale of Ice Cream in Barnstaple during the year was rather more than 60,000 gallons. No case of even the mildest form of gastric upset was attributed to its consumption, but, like all manufactured foods, it can be a vehicle for harmful organisms, and hygienic methods of production and handling are essential if it is to be eaten with impunity.

FOOD PREPARING PREMISES.

1,869 visits were made to such premises, and conditions are generally highly satisfactory. More Shop-keepers are taking advantage of modern materials and methods of storage, etc. This is especially seen in those trades which, by their very nature, were once regarded as offensive to the senses.

Food inspected and surrendered as unfit for human consumption was as listed below :—

Tinned Food			Other		
Meat ...	491 tins		Beef (From Butchers' Shops)	940 lbs.	12 oz.
Fish ...	30 "		Veal " "	78 "	8 "
Fruit ...	950 "		Mutton " "	702 "	13 "
Vegetables ...	109 "		Pork " "	34 "	2 "
Preserves ...	43 "		Fish ...	628 "	0 "
Milk ...	129 "		Ground Rice ...	12 "	0 "
Soups ...	25 "		Tea ...	16 "	0 "
Various ...	33 "		Dried Fruits ...	428 "	0 "
			Cheese... ..	4 "	10 "
			Meat (Opened tins, etc.) ...	49 "	8 "
			Chitterlings ...	273 "	0 "
			Carrots... ..	28 "	0 "
			Cake	1 "	4 "
			Jam	2 "	0 "
			"Cokernut Kisses" ...	72 "	0 "
			Various	15 "	3 "
	1,810 tins				
Weight—2,381½ lbs.				3,286 "	6 "

(vi) MILK AND DAIRIES.

Under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, the Borough Public Health Department is responsible for the following administrative duties :—

- The sanitary conditions of the Distributive trade other than Producer-Retailers.
- Control by Licence of the sale of milk bearing Special Designations.
- Provision with regard to the infection of milk from human infectious diseases and from certain diseases of bovine origin.
- The prevention of the sale of milk from animals infected by Tuberculosis and other specified conditions.

52 samples of milk were submitted to the County Public Health Laboratory for the detection of tubercle. 40 were Negative, and 12 Inconclusive.

The number of Dairies in the Borough under local supervision is now 17.

The following Licences were issued to sell milk under Special Designations :—

Tuberculin Tested	10
Patseurised	1

It is to be the national policy eventually to ensure that all milk is "Designated" or "Heat Treated." Meanwhile, our best local contribution to a "safe" milk supply is the regular sampling from all Producers, for biological examination, i.e., to ensure that milk is free from Tuberculosis.

(vii) WATER SUPPLIES.

The mains water supply for the Borough of Barnstaple is satisfactory, both as regards quantity and quality.

Bacteriological examinations are carried out weekly, and the water is chlorinated.

The Borough Analyst reports on a sample of mains water submitted for chemical examination, before treatment or being put into supply:—

“The results show that the water has the characteristic quality of upland surface water drained from a clean gathering area. The analysis discloses no evidence of any unwholesome quality or any unusual constituent in the water. The water is devoid of plumbosolvent power.

The water is tasteless and odourless, and contains a trace only of organic matter in suspension. It is non-turbid.”

Two samples of well water used for drinking were taken from different parts of the Borough, and submitted for bacteriological examination. The report on each was that the water was grossly polluted and unfit for drinking. In one case the well supplies a single house where a mains supply is not possible by gravitation. The other well supplies 8 cottages in a semi-rural area, and the cost of supplying mains water would possibly exceed the value of the houses. All householders using these wells were advised to boil the water before drinking it.

(viii) RODENT DISINFESTATION.

From April, 1952, the services of a full-time Rodent Operative were discontinued, and since then disinfestation has been linked with disinfection and similar duties.

The work continues to be one of regular treatments of the main sewers and of other known “reservoirs” of infestations; the treatment of other reported infestations, and inspections of premises adjoining these.

(The relevant Act of 1949 places on occupiers of infested premises the duty of reporting to the Local Authority, who may disinfect if required to do so).

Number of properties inspected during 1952 as a result of notification or survey	...	263
Number of infested properties treated	...	120
Number of Notices served requesting structural works to be carried out	... ..	3

Two Maintenance treatments of sewers (the 9th & 10th) were carried out during the year, both with the co-operation of the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries, and with the transport and additional labour loaned by the Borough Surveyor.

(ix) INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION.

Investigations made concerning Infectious Disease Cases and Contacts :—

Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	1
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	1
Tuberculosis	...	..	...	6
Measles	...	..	...	10
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	18
Dysentery Sonn�	8
				—
				44
				—

Disinfections carried out :—

Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	1
Scarlet Fever	...	..	...	1
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	4
Deaths from Carcinoma	...	...	...	3

(x) FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948.

The following tables show inspections, &c., carried out during 1952.

1—INSPECTIONS.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
1 Non-Mechanical Factories ...	31	40	1	Nil
2 Mechanical Factories ...	141	174	2	Nil
3 Other premises (excluding Out workers premises) ...	4	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total ...	176	214	3	Nil

2—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Premises	Number of Cases in which Defects were found				Number of Cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness ...	12	8			
Overcrowding ...					
Unreasonable temperature ...					
Inadequate ventilation ...	1				
Ineffective drainage of floors ...					
Sanitary Conveniences—					
(a) insufficient ...	3	2			
(b) unsuitable or defective ...	24	20			
(c) not separate for sexes ...	1				
Other offences (not relating to Home Work) ...	14	7		1	
Total ...	55	37	Nil	1	Nil

OUTWORK

Section 110				Section 111		
Nature of Work	Number of Outworkers in August	Number of Cases of Default in sending lists	Number of Prosecutions for failure to send lists	Number of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing Apparel —Making ...	89	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Lace Curtains and Nets ...	19	Nil	Nil	1	1 (Verbal)	Nil
Total ...	108	Nil	Nil	1	1	Nil

(xi) PETROLEUM AND EXPLOSIVES ACT.

The following storage licences were granted under the Petroleum Act, 1928 :—

Petroleum Spirit	...	...	...	59
Petroleum Spirit and Carbide of Calcium			...	2
Petroleum Spirit and Crude Benzol	...		...	1
Petroleum Spirit and Petroleum Mixtures			...	8
Petroleum Mixtures	...	...	...	5
Carbide of Calcium	...	...	...	1
Petroleum Mixtures and Carbide of Calcium			...	1
				—
		Total	...	77
				—

The quantities stored are as follows :—

Petroleum Spirit	...	228,896 gallons
Carbide of Calcium	...	1,028 lbs.
Crude Benzol	...	3,800 gallons
Petroleum Mixtures	...	1,484 gallons

The amount of fees received by the Local Authority for the above licences was £56 10s.

The number of premises registered for the storage of Mixed Explosives was 32.

**The following is a detailed list of Sanitary Operations
carried out during the year 1952**

	Public Health Act	Housing Act	Food & Drugs and Milk & Dairies Acts	Factories Act
New sets of house drains laid ...	9	—	—	1
Drains repaired ...	25	—	—	—
Drains cleared ...	55	—	—	1
New soil pipes fixed ...	9	—	—	—
New interceptors fixed ...	6	—	—	1
New vent pipes provided ...	9	—	—	1
Fresh air inlets provided ...	4	—	—	—
New inspection chambers built ...	14	—	—	1
New gullies fixed ...	6	—	—	—
Additional W.C.'s provided ...	8	—	—	1
Screen to W.C. ...	—	—	—	1
W.C.'s repaired ...	9	—	—	1
New W.C. pans provided ...	27	—	—	1
New flushing cisterns provided ...	7	—	—	—
Flushing cisterns repaired ...	1	—	—	—
Rain pipes repaired ...	5	—	—	—
Plaster repaired Internal ...	2	—	—	—
External ...	6	—	—	—
Windows repaired or renewed ...	3	—	—	—
Floors renewed and repaired ...	3	—	1	—
Washing facilities provided ...	—	—	7	—
Houses demolished ...	—	4	—	—
Underground rooms closed ...	—	1	—	—
Dampness remedied ...	6	—	—	—
Kitchen stoves repaired ...	6	—	—	—
Roofs repaired or renewed ...	23	—	—	—
Guttering renewed or repaired ...	12	—	—	—
Yards repaired or renewed ...	2	—	—	—
Bins provided ...	1	—	—	—
Rooms cleansed ...	—	—	10	2
Articles of clothing cleansed ...	5	—	—	—
Smoke and water tests applied to drains ...	37	—	—	—
Premises where nuisances abated...	116	—	—	—
Vermin eradicated ...	41	—	—	—
Offensive accumulations removed ...	2	—	—	—
Ceilings repaired ...	3	—	—	—
Staircases repaired or renewed ...	4	—	—	—
Walls repaired ...	—	—	3	—
Lighting improved ...	—	—	2	—
Water supply improved ...	1	—	—	—
W.C.'s disconnected ...	—	—	—	2
Cooling apparatus provided ...	—	—	1	—
Means of escape in case of fire improved ...	—	—	—	2
Miscellaneous ...	3	—	—	—

Summary of Inspections, &c.

Visits made	...	...	...	...	4,261
Houses inspected, Public Health Act			...	...	334
Revisits	...	...	...	...	589
Visits to slaughterhouse and butchers' shops	...			...	1,359
Food preparing premises		...	...	...	49
Other food shops	...	..	..	...	225
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	17
Milk Vehicles (including Sampling)			...	...	40
Dairies	...	...	...	...	35
Ice Cream premises	...	...	...	...	144
Piggeries	...	...	...	...	6
Factories	...	...	...	...	214
Offensive Trade Premises		...	...	...	4
Outworkers' premises	...	...	...	...	116
Rodent control	...	...	...	...	125
Refuse tip	...	...	...	...	157
Depôt	...	...	...	...	51
Camping sites	...	...	...	...	3
Common Lodging Houses		...	...	...	1
Shops and Offices	...	...	...	...	4
Petroleum storage	...	...	...	...	28
Infectious Disease Investigation	...		...	..	44
Miscellaneous Letters written	...		...	..	88
Statutory Notices, Housing Act	...		...	...	4
Informal Notices, Public Health Act			...	...	53
„ „ Factories	...		...	...	3
Verbal notices	...	...	...	...	82

I am grateful to all Members and Officials of the Corporation for their courtesy and co-operation during the year, especially to all other members of the Public Health Department staff for their approach to the many duties here reported on, and the preparation of this Report.

Your obedient servant,

W. RODGERS,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

